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Director of
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EL SALVADOR: Political and Military Developments

The power struggle between Army Field Commander Ochoa and Defense Minister Garcia appears to be resolved, but the military faces a new challenge from the insurgents. (S)

Ochoa has agreed to attend classes at the Inter-American Defense College in Washington, thus ending his weeklong rebellion. Garcia, in turn, has offered to resign within the next three months. His probable successor--will be General Vides Casanova, the current director of the National Guard. (S) NF NC OC

Encouraged by the political turmoil in the armed forces, the insurgents have begun what they claim is a major new offensive. They have attacked military garrisons in several towns in the north. (S) NF

Comment: Vides Casanova is next in line behind Garcia to head the armed forces. He is intelligent and pragmatic and is friendly toward President Magana and the US. (S)

The apparent resolution of the military's internal crisis is timely. The armed forces likely will face a significant increase in guerrilla offensive activities in coming days. (S) CIA, DIA, NSA

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